

## NUMBER 4.

## MEMORIAL—IMPROVEMENT OF THE MISSOURI RIVER.

*To our Senators and Representatives in Congress:*

We, the members of the nineteenth general assembly of the State of Iowa, and now assembled at Des Moines in a legislative capacity, speaking for and representing the wish and imperative demand of the whole population of the state, would most respectfully represent:

That there is no question in which all our people have so great and vital an interest as that of cheaper transportation for their products to the markets of the world. That Iowa is, and must ever remain, an agricultural state. That success in agricultural pursuits depends not only on the amount produced, but also largely on the price realized by the producer, and this is governed mainly by his means of transportation. That our products have so far outgrown our means of transportation that fully one-half of the price of all we produce is consumed in the form of freights, as fixed and regulated by corporations who have full control of our present means of transportation. That the Missouri River, if properly improved from Sioux City, in the state of Iowa, to its confluence with the Mississippi, in the state of Missouri, would afford a cheap, safe, and speedy means of transportation for the four great grain-producing states; viz., Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska. These states had, as shown by the latest official report, an aggregate population of 5,198,103 inhabitants, and produced in the year 1880 five hundred and eighty-six million bushels of corn, or more than one-third of that of the whole United States. Of this, Iowa alone produced 276,000,000 bushels. In the year last named, these four states produced of cereals the fabulous quantity of 780,000,000 bushels, or more than double that of the sixteen Atlantic states. An increase in the price of these vast products of ten cents on the bushel, for a single year, would raise a sum ten times greater than necessary (if properly expended) to secure a uniform channel depth of twelve feet, at low water, from Sioux City, in Iowa, to St. Charles, in Missouri, and thereby lessen the cost of transportation at least fifty per cent, and save to the producers of these four great states fully \$100,000,000 per annum, and to the farmers of Iowa not less than \$30,000,000 each year. That Major C. R. Suter, an able and efficient civil engineer, was duly commissioned by the government to survey and report upon the practicability of so improving the Missouri River as to make its navigation safe and at all times reliable, and has within the two years last past completed said survey, and reported to Congress last winter that the Missouri can be so improved as to secure a uniform depth of twelve feet, at low water, from its mouth to Sioux City, in Iowa, and at a cost not exceeding \$10,000 per mile, and in the aggregate not exceeding \$7,820,000. See Senate Document[s], forty-sixth congress, third session. Your memorialists are aware that large sums of money have from time to time, and at almost every session of congress, been appropriated for the improvement of rivers and harbors in the eastern and older states, ever since the formation of our government, whereas the middle and more western states have received but little or no encouragement by way of appropriations for a similar purpose, notwithstanding they have constantly been heavily taxed, and have responded cheerfully and liberally

to every demand made by the general government. They have now grown weary and restive under and by reason of this unequal and unjust disbursement of the public funds, and therefore properly and earnestly DEMAND such an appropriation for the improvement of their large rivers as may be necessary to secure to them a cheaper and more reliable means of transporting their vast and yearly increasing products to the marts of the world, and thereby secure to them a just reward for their industry and enterprise: therefore,

*Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, the Senate concurring:*

That our senators and representatives in congress be requested and INSTRUCTED to take early, earnest, and persistent action by way of securing an appropriation of not less than seven million dollars for the improvement of the Missouri River between Sioux City, in the state of Iowa, and St. Charles, in the state of Missouri, and that they secure such other national legislation as may be necessary to insure the faithful and honest application and disbursement of the money so appropriated, to the end that the work may be commenced as early as possible and completed without unnecessary delay.

Second. That the memorial be printed, properly authenticated, and a copy sent by the secretary of state to each of our senators and representatives in congress; also, one to each senator and representative now in congress from the states of Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska.

Approved, February 25, 1882.

## NUMBER 5.

### DES MOINES RIVER LANDS.

JOINT RESOLUTION AND MEMORIAL of the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, Relating to the Des Moines River Lands.

WHEREAS, The settlers upon what is known as the lands granted to the Des Moines Navigation and Railroad Company believe that no action has ever been taken relating to these lands in which the United States and the interest of the United States have been fairly, properly, and adequately represented in court; and,

WHEREAS, The said settlers desire that the United States may be fairly and fully represented in the court; therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Iowa, the Senate concurring,* That our senators and representatives in congress be earnestly requested to exert themselves to secure the prompt passage of a bill which shall in some way provide that the attorney-general of the United States shall immediately institute proceedings, or cause such proceedings to be commenced at once, by action either in equity or at law, as